

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 /043 W
-----078859 230953Z /13
R 222318Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2197

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 13802

FOR ARA LABOR ADVISOR

EO11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, OVIP, OAS, MX
SUBJECT: OAS FEASIBILITY STUDY--VISIT OF SAN SEBASTIAN

REF: STATE 209450

1. DURING MEETING LABOR ATTACHE HAD WITH AIDA GONZALEZ (DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR GOM LABOR SECRETARIAT), LATTER MENTIONED THAT SHE AND LABOR SECRETARY PEDRO OJEDA PAULLADA HAD MET WITH RUBENS SAN SEBASTIAN FOR ABOUT AN HOUR ON AFTERNOON OF AUG 18. SHE CLAIMED THAT OJEDA HAD FIRMLY REJECTED THE SUGGESTION FOR CREATION OF ANY TRI-PARTITE STRUCTURE WITHIN THE OAS. OJEDA REPORTEDLY TOLD SAN SEBASTIAN THE GOM WOULD COOPERATE WITH ANY ATTEMPT TO BRING ABOUT GREATER OAS ATTENTION TO LABOR AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS, BUT THAT HE VIEWS "TRIPARTITE EFFORT" SIMPLY AS A TRICK TO UNDERCUT THE ILO, TO WHICH GOM IS FULLY COMMITTED. SAN SEBASTIAN REPORTEDLY WAS TOLD THAT THEY COULD EXPECT NO MORAL OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM MEXICO FOR ANY SUCH EFFORT. SHE SAYS SAN SEBASTIAN MADE AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO CALL ON CTM CHIEF FIDEL VELASQUEZ. HE APPARENTLY MADE NO EFFORT TO CONTACT THIS EMBASSY.

2. GONZALEZ TOLD LABATT THAT SHE WAS IN FULL SYMPATHY WITH
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THOSE WHO CRITICIZED THE OAS LACK OF ATTENTION TO SOCIAL ISSUES AND THE STEWARDSHIP OF ORFILA. DESPITE ATTEMPTS OF THE LABATT TO CONVINCE HER THAT A DESIRE TO IMPROVE RESPONSIVENESS TO SOCIAL ISSUES WAS PROBABLY BEHIND THE MOVE TO BROADEN OAS PARTICIPATION, SHE REMAINED CONVINCED THAT THE EFFORT WAS MOTIVATED "ALMOST 100 PERCENT BY DESIRES TO REPLACE THE ILO INFLUENCE WITH THAT OF THE OAS IN LATIN

AMERICA."

3. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT "THE RADICAL CHIC" GONZALEZ WAS QUITE ACTIVE AND UNCOOPERATIVE WITH U.S. INTERESTS AT JUNE 1977 ILO CONFERENCE. DURING PAST YEAR SECRETARY OJEDA HAS GONE TO PAINS TO CONVINCE LABATT THAT GONZALEZ HAS "MODERATED" AND PERFORMING QUITE CAPABLY IN A TECHNICAL CAPACITY. WE ARE CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS MODERATION IS SLIGHT AND THAT SHE STILL EXERCISES A STRONG INFLUENCE OVER OJEDA ON INTERNATIONAL MATTERS. MCANINCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, STUDIES, REORGANIZATIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MEXICO13802
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780344-0714
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780838/aaaabffw.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1378635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 209450
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1662119
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAS FEASIBILITY STUDY--VISIT OF SAN SEBASTIAN
TAGS: ELAB, OVIP, MX, OAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1378635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014